

## Watershed Operations

October 2009

## ***Honey Creek Watershed Project, Vigo County, Indiana***

### **Introduction**

The Honey Creek-Vigo Conservancy District watershed project that is nearing completion will contribute approximately \$1.97 million of annual benefits to the economic growth of the area. More than 105,000 people reside in Vigo County.



Honey Creek Watershed is located in Vigo County in southwestern Indiana.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.

### **Project Description**

- **Location:** Vigo County, 8th Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$3,300,000
- **Sponsor Funding:** \$1,800,000

This project consists of channel relocation, a pumping station, and 12 miles of earthen dikes and concrete floodwalls that will protect the area from damages of recurring flooding. The project consists of building 3.6 miles of flood control dikes in the southern part of the county along Thompson Ditch beginning where it empties into Honey Creek. This final phase will complete the Honey Creek project.

### **Partners**

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Honey Creek-Vigo Conservancy District
- Vigo County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Clay County Soil and Water Conservation District

### **Benefits**

When completed, the flood prevention work on Honey Creek will provide protection from 100-year, 24-hour storm events for about 390 residential properties, 190 commercial properties, and 1,300 acres of crop fields and pasture lands. The overall economic impact is estimated to be \$98 million in flood protection benefits over the 50-year lifespan of the flood prevention measures. Completion of this project will improve public health and safety, and the quality of life for residents in the watershed.



Completion of the Watershed Project will protect this urban and commercial area along Springhill Road from a 100-year, 24-hour storm event. This photo was taken during the flood of June 2008.

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### Economic Opportunities

A mix of professional and technical jobs will be created or retained through this project, including land surveyors, appraisers, attorneys, engineers, construction managers, heavy equipment operators, and laborers. The project will impact thousands of citizens who live or transact business in the southern part of Vigo County.

### Statewide Perspective

Indiana will benefit from the project because of the economic stimulus to the area and the provided flood protection.

### For More Information

USDA, NRCS  
6013 Lakeside Boulevard,  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46228  
Phone: 317-290-3200  
[www.in.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov)



This photo taken June 2008 shows flooding of Springhill Road at Thompson Ditch. Floodwaters from the 100-year, 24-hour event will be contained within the dike system upon completion of the remaining 3.6 miles of dike.



Commercial flooding experienced in June 2008. Completion of the Watershed Project will protect the commercial area along Thompson Ditch and 7th Street from a 100-year, 24-hour storm event.

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